

# MEC News

October 2009

Volume 4

Page 1

Julie Allen, Executive Director

[www.mec.mo.gov](http://www.mec.mo.gov)

## Campaign Finance

**REMINDER: October Qtly Reports Due Oct 15th**  
Every committee registered with MEC must file an Oct Qtly Report by October 15, 2009. This report should include all activity from the day after your last report through September 30, 2009.

Any report mailed must be postmarked by October 14, 2009, the day prior, to be considered timely filed. All electronically filed reports should be received by 5pm on October 15, 2009 (Section 130.046.8 RSMo).

**Committee Registration Deadline:** October 4th is the last day for a committee, other than a continuing committee, to organize as a committee for the November 3rd, 2009 election.

## New Brochures

[Campaign Finance Fact Sheet](#)  
[Campaign Materials Identification Requirements](#)  
[Lobbyist Fact Sheet](#)  
[Personal Financial Disclosure Fact Sheet](#)  
[Personal Financial Disclosure FAQs](#)

## Personal Financial (PFD)

**Big Success!** MEC has a new electronic program allowing political subdivisions to file their annual operating budget and list of required filers. To date, 66% of all subdivisions have used the new program to file their budget, and 82% of those filers have filed their required filers list electronically. Comments received include:

..... "I appreciate the ease of this system",  
..... "The instructions are easy to follow",  
..... "I like the ability to update the contact information online", and  
..... "I really like the email confirmation".

Early in 2010, the political subdivisions will have the ability to see if the required filers have filed their PFDs.

## Lobbying Question



**How does a lobbyist report an expenditure made to a state department head?** The lobbyist would select to enter an individual expenditure from the Lobbyist Electronic Filing System. Then the lobbyist would select the recipient type as "employee or staff". Type in the recipient's name in the recipient name field and mark the public official type as "Other".

## Advisory Opinions

Upon written request, the Commission issues advisory opinions about campaign finance disclosure, conflict of interest, lobbying and personal financial disclosure. Advisory opinions are available on the Commission's [website](#). Below are recently issued opinions:



### Conflict of Interest

2009.04.CI.002— Member of the State Senate also working for a healthcare technology company in Missouri.

2009.04.CI.003— Can a non-board member serve as a secretary or treasurer on an ambulance district board?

## Training

**Training** MEC is developing new training for a variety of topics and audiences including campaign finance, conflict of interest, lobbyists, personal financial disclosure, and use of public funds. The training will be available for local and elected officials, candidates, and campaign finance committee officers. We'll offer in-person seminars as well as web training/tutorials. Do you have a topic you'd like the MEC consider providing? Send an email to [helpdesk@mec.mo.gov](mailto:helpdesk@mec.mo.gov).

### Training Calendar Snapshot

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> : New Campaign Finance Committee - Jefferson City (2 sessions)  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup> : St. Louis County Board of Election Staff - St. Louis County Board of Election  
Jan 2010: Candidate and Campaign Finance Recordkeeping/Reporting - St. Louis County B.O.E.C. (Date to be determined)  
Apr 19<sup>th</sup> : Candidate and Campaign Finance Recordkeeping/Reporting - Warrensburg Community Center

## Campaign Finance Questions

**Are there limits on campaign finance cash contributions; what information about a donor must a candidate or committee maintain?** (130.031.1, 4, 6; 130.036.3; 130.041(3), RSMo.)

Yes, cash contributions, for any election, can *only* be accepted in the amount of \$100 or less from any one contributor; anonymous contributions may only be received for up to \$25 from any one contributor. A candidate or committee must maintain each contributor's name and address, and in some instances the contributor's employer, except for:

- ✓ Anonymous contributions
- ✓ Fundraising events, meeting Section 130.011; 130.031.6, for contributions received at the fund raiser, from any one contributor, that are not over \$100

Information required to be reported on the disclosure reports can be found in Section 130.041, RSMo.

**What event meets the definition of a campaign finance fund raising activity?** (130.011(18); 130.031.6, RSMo.)

- ✓ An activity where contributions are solicited/ received by selling tickets, collecting attendance fees, receiving donations for prizes/goods/services/ political merchandise; examples include dinners or luncheons, receptions, coffees, rallies, and auctions *and*
- ✓ 25 or more contributors participate *and*
- ✓ Candidate, committee treasurer/dep. treasurer, or person responsible for event announces it is illegal for anyone to make or receive contributions over \$100 without the contributor's name and address *and*
- ✓ Person responsible for the event doesn't knowingly accept payment from any person over \$100 without obtaining the person's name and address and recorded as required by 130.036, RSMo.

The fund raising event is disclosed per Section 130.041, RSMo.



## Campaign Finance Questions

**Does a corporation, contributing to a campaign, need to form as a Missouri campaign finance committee?** (130.011(7), RSMo.) No, unless the corporation is organized or operated for the primary purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the action of voters related to a candidate or ballot measure. See Sections 130.021.10, and 11, RSMo., for committee formation requirements for corporations fitting the committee definition. See Sections 130.049, 130.050, RSMo., for out-of-state committees, which are otherwise not required to form reporting requirements. A corporation not fitting the definition of a Missouri committee may still be required to report expenditures under Section 130.047.

## Tech Talk

### Save Time Filing Your Campaign Finance Reports

Do you keep track of your campaign finance records in Excel or other accounting software? If so, you *may* be able to import the data into MEC's electronic reporting system. Click here for the [File Import Specification and Template for CD1 & CD3](#) and a new [training video](#).

**New MEC Web Features Coming Soon** Soon to be released enhanced and newly developed web searches for Campaign Finance Data:

- ✓ The Contributions and Expenditures search will be expanded to include information from all electronically reported data. No longer limited to only State-wide and Legislative candidate committees.
- ✓ A new search for Contributions Received Over \$5,000. This new feature will include quick searches showing the most recently reported data and an advanced search to limit by date, committee, amount, or contributor.

### **Enhanced Campaign Finance Reporting System Update**

The current campaign finance electronic reporting system will continue for the upcoming 2010 election cycle. System enhancement development includes working with various users in developing training, testing, and performing test filings in anticipation of a fall 2010 production deployment.